

Safe Streets and Roads for All
SS4A Task Force
Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 5:00 PM
Conference Rooms 1&2, Portage County Annex
1462 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point WI 54481

Video can be accessed: <https://portagecovi.portal.civicclerk.com/event/7278/media>

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Attendance – The meeting was called to order by Kristen Johnson, Planner, Planning and Zoning Department.
Staff attending: Kristen Johnson, Adam Kuhn, City of Stevens Point Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator; Karmen Anderson, Village of Plover Planner; Patty Benedict, Recording Secretary
Task Force Members: Tori Jennings, Mike Helmrick, Sara Akena, Allison Birr, Brent Matthews, Ismaila Odogba, Karalyn Peterson, Trevor Roark, Jackie Schimke, David Shorr, Dean Curtis, Lydia Iverson
2. PUBLIC NOTICE: Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their requests at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. No one from the public registered to speak.
3. Approve Meeting Transcription from August 27, 2024 Kick-off Meeting
The meeting transcription was approved by consensus.
4. Introductions
Members introduced themselves and explained their interest in being on the Task Force.
5. Purpose of Task Force
Kristen Johnson explained the Task Force will be creating a safety action plan with a goal to reduce or eliminate severe crashes causing fatalities injuries. Contracted consultants are: John (Campbell, Traffic Analysis & Design, Inc. [TADI]); Vandewalle & Associates, Jackie Mish, will assist with updating the countywide Bike/Ped Plan adopted in 2014, and a public relations firm to engage the public throughout the process. Consultants are currently in the information collection phase. A public information meeting will take place the end of October. An online survey will be available soon. Task Force members are asked to spread the word.
6. Elect Chairperson & Vice Chairperson
Jackie Schimke nominated Trevor Roark for Chairperson. Trevor Roark nominated Amberle Schwartz for Chairperson. Nominations were closed after three calls. A majority vote for Trevor Roark occurred by a show of hands. Trevor Roark was elected Chairperson. Chairperson Trevor Roark called for nominations for Vice Chairperson. David Shorr nominated Amberle Schwartz. Nominations were closed after three calls. A majority vote for Amberle Schwartz occurred by a show of hands. Amberle Schwartz was elected Vice Chairperson.
7. Discuss Safe System Approach
 - a. Current Issues
 - b. Improvement Issues
Chair Roark noted John Campbell (TADI), introduced the Safe System Approach during the kickoff meeting. Adam Kuhn reiterated the purpose of the grant is to reduce and ultimately eliminate roadway deaths and serious injuries within Portage County. How do we get there? How did we get to this point? Understanding past and present conditions will help guide future decisions. He noted the Safe System approach requires all five areas – Safe Road Users, Safe Vehicles, Safe Speeds, Safe Roads, and Post-Crash Care. He reviewed the Safe System document included in meeting packets. He shared international data from countries that have adopted the Safe Systems approach from 2000-2019, highlighting the decrease in roadway deaths.
8. Subdivide into Safe System Groups of 2-4 People: What Category Resonates With You?
 - a. Safer Road Users
 - b. Safer Vehicles
 - c. Safer Speeds
 - d. Safer Roads

- e. Better Post Crash Care
Task Force members broke into the five groups and were asked to answer why they chose the group, current conditions that exist, and suggest overarching goals and solutions they would like the county to achieve to improve the issue. Chair Roark noted Safe System is not the only model available and named several others.
9. Group Discussion Takeaways
Each group answered the questions. Adam Kuhn said staff asks Task Force members to keep the five elements in mind through all phases of the planning process over the next 18 months. Chair Roark noted TADI will be providing large amounts of data along with best practices in each of the five elements. He encouraged members to research other communities that have developed Safe Streets and Roads for All, as well as other plans and bring ideas to the Task Force for discussion.
10. Homework: Brainstorm stakeholders related to your Safe System group and email contact information of stakeholders to the chairperson within one week.
Chair Roark gave a brief description of the roles for the Bicycle and Pedestrian and Demonstration Activity Subcommittees. He referred to the stakeholder list included in meeting packets and asked members to email him with additional businesses, organizations, nonprofits, individuals, municipalities, etc., to include. He stressed involving more rural stakeholders.
11. Staff Updates
 - a. Sustainability Fair at UWSP, October 29, 10 am-2 pm. Table reserved. Looking for Volunteers
Chair Roark asked for two people to staff the table, hand out flyers, and promote the Public Involvement meeting and taking the survey. Email Chair Roark if available.
 - b. Stevens Point Farmers Markets
Chair Roark will be at the farmers' market from 8 am to noon on Saturday (October 19) and invited others to join him. He would also like to reserve a space at the winter farmers' market.
 - c. Network Connections – Rural and Urban (Promotional Materials)
 - d. Bike/Ped Subcommittee Meeting – October 23, 3:00 pm, Conference Room 5, Portage County Annex
 - e. Demonstration Activity Subcommittee Meeting, October 23, 5:00 pm, Conference Room 5, Portage County Annex
Kristen Johnson noted she sent out the meeting packets for both subcommittee meetings. Task Force members are welcome to attend the subcommittee meetings in person or virtually.
 - f. Public Involvement Meeting #1 – October 29, 5-7pm, Mid-State Technical College, Community Engagement Room
Chair Roark stated it is important to involve as many stakeholders and citizens as possible and encouraged members to get the word out. Kristen Johnson has hard copy flyers available and can also send electronically. The QR code on the flyer is linked to the County SS4A webpage. The survey will be open for a month, geared toward the public sharing locations they perceive to be dangerous for different modes of transportation. A press release, social media, and public events will be used to promote the survey.
12. Questions/Discussion
The public is welcome to attend Task Force and subcommittee meetings.
13. Adjourn
Chair Roark adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Benedict
Administrative Associate II
Portage County Planning and Zoning Department